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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2001

Boat Patrol Unit Rescues 5 People Off Point Loma

Third rescue by the boat unit over the past two weeks

Point Loma, California - This morning, at approximately 8:00AM, the U.S. Border Patrol's Marine Interdiction Unit responded to a vessel in distress call reported over the marine band radio. The vessel, as reported by the U.S. Coast Guard, was located approximately 9 miles west of the Point Loma Lighthouse and was rapidly taking on water. Braving 20 plus knot winds and extremely poor visibility, the Marine Interdiction Unit began searching the area. Shortly thereafter, the boat unit was able to locate the 26ft vessel and safely transfer all five occupants onto the Border Patrol craft. The passengers were subsequently transferred to a Coast Guard cutter where they were able to accompany their vessel being towed back to Shelter Island.

October 28th - The Marine Interdiction Unit rescued a stranded vessel near the San Diego Bay. The single occupant of a 32ft, white sailboat radioed for assistance after his engine failed and was drifting towards the shore. The boat patrol unit was able to locate the sailboat and safely tow the vessel to the Shelter Island Marina.

October 20th - At approximately 2:00PM, two agents from Marine Interdiction Unit responded to a distress call from a 53 -year -old man having a heart attack. After locating the vessel off the shores of Point Loma, the agents boarded the 47ft sailboat where they encountered a man drifting in and out of consciousness. The agents administered oxygen to the man and relayed his vital signs to waiting medics on shore. With the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard, the agents were able to transport the victim to the San Diego Harbor Police dock where he was treated by emergency medical personnel. The medics subsequently stated that the victim's survival was directly linked to the actions of the Border Patrol Agents.

Although the U.S. Border Patrol's primary function is to enforce the rule of law along the border, as an agency we value all human life and seek to safeguard it whenever possible.

Additional information regarding these incidents will be available on Monday, November 5th during regular business hours.